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Agenda item 7

DRAFT DECISIONS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Note by the Secretariat

CONTENTS

		Page
I.	INTRODUCTION	3
II.	DRAFT DECISIONS RECOMMENDED BY THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE ON DESERTIFICATION	4
	A. Rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties (decision 10/6): agenda item 2	4
	B. Participation of non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations (decision 10/12): agenda item 6	20
	C. Financial rules of the COP, its subsidiary bodies and the permanent secretariat (decision 10/5): agenda item 7(b)	25
	D. Designation of a permanent secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: administrative and support arrangements (decision 10/2): agenda item 7(d)	29
	E. Procedures for the communication of information and review of implementation (decision 9/9): agenda item 7(f)	30
	F. Organization of scientific and technological cooperation which includes:	35
	1. Terms of reference of the Committee on Science and Technology (decision 9/10): agenda item 7(g)	36
	2. Procedures for the establishment of ad hoc panels (decision 9/10): agenda item 7(j)	39
	3. Establishment and maintenance of a roster of independent experts (decision 9/10): agenda item 7(k)	40

III. DRAFT DECISION SUBMITTED BY THE SECRETARIAT

A. Programme and budget: agenda item 7(c) 43

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At the ninth and first part of the tenth INCD sessions, the Committee recommended to the first Conference of the Parties (COP) a number of decisions for its consideration and adoption. For ready reference, Part II of this document compiles such INCD recommendations which appear in the order of items set out in the draft annotated agenda (document ICCD/COP(1)/1).

2. Part III of this document contains a draft decision on the COP work programme and budget prepared by the interim secretariat in response to INCD decision 10/4. This decision requested the interim secretariat to circulate, at least ninety days prior to the first session of the COP, necessary draft decisions related to the work programme and budget of the COP, as well as detailed budget estimates for the biennium 1998-1999.

3. Other INCD recommendations requiring action by the COP are integrated in the COP work programme as indicated in the annotated provisional agenda(document ICCD/COP(1)/1).

II. DRAFT DECISIONS RECOMMENDED BY THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE ON DESERTIFICATION

A. Rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties,

Considering the provisions of the Convention, particularly article 22, paragraph 3, which stipulates that the Conference of the Parties shall adopt, at its first session, its own rules of procedure,

Having examined the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties,

Decides to adopt the rules of procedure attached, with the exception of paragraph 1 of rule 6, paragraph 1 of rule 22, rule 31 and paragraph 1 of rule 47, and provisionally to apply rules 22 and 31 in relation to the size of the Bureau.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. INTRODUCTION . . . . .
II. SESSIONS . . . . .
III. OBSERVERS . . . . .
IV. AGENDA . . . . .
V. REPRESENTATION AND CREDENTIALS . . . . .
VI. OFFICERS . . . . .
VII. SUBSIDIARY BODIES . . . . .
VIII. PERMANENT SECRETARIAT . . . . .
IX. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS . . . . .
X. VOTING . . . . .
XI. ELECTIONS . . . . .
XII. LANGUAGES AND SOUND RECORDS . . . . .
XIII. AMENDMENTS TO RULES OF PROCEDURE . . . . .
XIV. OVERRIDING AUTHORITY OF THE CONVENTION . . . . .
XV. MISCELLANEOUS . . . . .

UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA

DRAFT RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

I. INTRODUCTION

Scope

Rule 1

The present rules of procedure shall apply to any session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention convened in accordance with article 22 of the Convention.

Definitions

Rule 2

For the purposes of the present rules:

(a) "Convention" means the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, adopted at Paris, on 17 June 1994;

(b) "Parties" means Parties to the Convention;

(c) "Conference of the Parties" means the Conference of the Parties established by article 22 of the Convention;

(d) "Session" means any ordinary or extraordinary session of the Conference of the Parties convened in accordance with article 22 of the Convention;

(e) "Regional economic integration organization" means an organization defined in article 1, paragraph (j) of the Convention;

(f) "President" means the President of the Conference of the Parties elected in accordance with rule 22, paragraph 1;

(g) "Permanent Secretariat" means the Permanent Secretariat designated by the Conference of the Parties in accordance with article 23, paragraph 3 of the Convention;

(h) "Subsidiary body" means those bodies established pursuant to article 24 of the Convention, as well as any body, including committees and working groups, established pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2 (c) of the Convention;

(i) "Parties present and voting" means Parties present at the meeting at which voting takes place and casting an affirmative or negative vote; Parties abstaining from voting shall be considered as not voting.

II. SESSIONS

Place of sessions

Rule 3

The sessions of the Conference of the Parties shall take place at the seat of the Permanent Secretariat, unless the Conference of the Parties decides otherwise or other appropriate arrangements are made by the Permanent Secretariat in consultation with the Parties.

Dates of sessions

Rule 4

1. Unless otherwise decided by the Conference of the Parties, the second, third and fourth ordinary sessions of the Conference of the Parties shall be held yearly, and thereafter, ordinary sessions shall be held every two years.

2. At each ordinary session, the Conference of the Parties shall decide on the date and duration of the next ordinary session. The Conference of the Parties should endeavour not to hold such sessions at a time which would make the attendance of a significant number of delegations difficult.

3. Extraordinary sessions of the Conference of the Parties shall be held at such times as may be decided either by the Conference of the Parties in ordinary session or at the written request of any Party, provided that, within three months of the request being communicated to the Parties by the Permanent Secretariat, it is supported by at least one third of the Parties.

4. In the case of an extraordinary session held at the written request of a Party, it shall be held not more than ninety days after the date at which the request is supported by at least one third of the Parties in accordance with paragraph 3.

Notification of sessions

Rule 5

The Permanent Secretariat shall notify all Parties of the dates and venue of an ordinary session at least two months before the session is due to commence. The dates and venue of an extraordinary session shall be notified in the communication to the Parties by the Permanent Secretariat pursuant to rule 4, paragraphs 3 and 4.

III. OBSERVERS

Participation of United Nations and specialized agencies

Rule 6

1. The United Nations, its specialized agencies, any State member thereof or observers thereto not Party to the Convention, as well as [the] organization[s] housing the Global Mechanism pursuant to article 21, paragraph (5) of the Convention, may be represented at sessions of the Conference of the Parties as observers.

2. Such observers may, upon invitation of the President, participate without the right to vote in the proceedings of any session, unless at least one third of the Parties present at the session object.

Participation of other bodies or agencies

Rule 7

1. Any body or agency, whether national or international, governmental or non-governmental, which is qualified in matters covered by the Convention and which has informed the Permanent Secretariat of its wish to be represented at a session of the Conference of the Parties as an observer may be so admitted unless at least one third of the Parties present at the session object.

2. Such observers may, upon invitation of the President, participate without the right to vote in the proceedings of any session in matters of direct concern to the body or agency they represent, unless at least one third of the Parties present at the session object.

Notification by Secretariat

Rule 8

The Permanent Secretariat shall notify those entitled to be observers pursuant to rules 6 and 7 of the date and venue of any session of the Conference of the Parties.

IV. AGENDA

Preparation of provisional agenda

Rule 9

In agreement with the President, the Permanent Secretariat shall prepare the provisional agenda of each session.

Items on provisional agenda

Rule 10

The provisional agenda for each ordinary session shall include, as appropriate:

(a) Items arising from the articles of the Convention, including those specified in its article 22;

(b) Items the inclusion of which has been decided at a previous session;

(c) Items referred to in rule 16 of the present rules of procedure;

(d) The proposed budget as well as all questions pertaining to the accounts and financial arrangements;

(e) Any item proposed by a Party and received by the Permanent Secretariat before the provisional agenda is circulated.

Distribution of provisional agenda

Rule 11

For each ordinary session, the provisional agenda, together with supporting documents, shall be distributed in the official languages by the Permanent Secretariat to the Parties at least six weeks before the opening of the session.

Supplementary items

Rule 12

The Permanent Secretariat shall, in agreement with the President, include any item which is proposed by a Party and has been received by the Permanent Secretariat after the provisional agenda has been produced, but before the opening of the session, in a supplementary provisional agenda.

Addition, deletion, deferment or amendment of items

Rule 13

When adopting the agenda, the Conference of the Parties may decide to add, delete, defer or amend items. Only items which are considered by the Conference of the Parties to be urgent and important may be added to the agenda.

Provisional agenda of extraordinary session

Rule 14

The provisional agenda for an extraordinary session shall consist only of those items proposed for consideration in the request for the holding of the extraordinary session. It shall be distributed to the Parties at the same time as the invitation to the extraordinary session.

Report on administrative and budgetary implications

Rule 15

The Permanent Secretariat shall report to the Conference of the Parties on the administrative and budgetary implications of all substantive agenda items submitted to the session, before they are considered by it. Unless the Conference of the Parties decides otherwise, no such substantive agenda item shall be considered until at least forty-eight hours after the Conference of the Parties has received the report of the Permanent Secretariat on the administrative and budgetary implications.

Incomplete consideration of item

Rule 16

Any item of the agenda of an ordinary session, consideration of which has not been completed at the session, shall be included automatically in the agenda of the next ordinary session, unless otherwise decided by the Conference of the Parties.

V. REPRESENTATION AND CREDENTIALS

Composition of delegation

Rule 17

Each Party participating in a session shall be represented by a delegation consisting of a head of delegation and such other accredited representatives, alternate representatives and advisers as it may require.

Alternates and advisers

Rule 18

An alternate representative or an adviser may act as a representative upon designation by the head of delegation.

Submission of credentials

Rule 19

The credentials of representatives as well as the names of alternate representatives and advisers shall be submitted to the Permanent Secretariat if possible not later than twenty-four hours after the opening of the session. Any later change in the composition of the delegation shall also be submitted to the Permanent Secretariat. The credentials shall be issued either by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister of Foreign Affairs or, in the case of a regional economic integration organization, by the competent authority of that organization.

Examination of credentials

Rule 20

The Bureau of any session shall examine the credentials and submit its report to the Conference of the Parties for decision.

Provisional participation

Rule 21

Representatives shall be entitled to participate provisionally in the session, pending a decision by the Conference of the Parties to accept their credentials.

VI. OFFICERS

Election of officers

Rule 22

1. At the commencement of the first meeting of each ordinary session, a President, [nine] Vice-Presidents and the Chairperson of the Committee on Science and Technology shall be elected from among the representatives of the Parties present at the session [in a manner that every geographical region shall be represented by at least two members]. They shall serve as the Bureau of the session. One of the Vice-Presidents shall act as Rapporteur. In appointing the Bureau, due regard shall be paid to the need to ensure equitable geographical distribution and adequate representation of affected country Parties [in the regions referred to in the implementation annexes of the Convention], particularly those in Africa. The offices of President and Rapporteur shall normally be subject to rotation among the regional groups recognized by the practice of the United Nations.

2. The officers referred to in paragraph 1 shall remain in office until their successors are elected at the next ordinary session and shall serve in that capacity at any intervening extraordinary sessions. No officer may serve on the Bureau for more than two consecutive terms.

3. The President shall participate in the session in that capacity and shall not at the same time exercise the rights of a representative of a Party. The

Party concerned shall designate another representative who shall be entitled to represent the Party in the session and to exercise the right to vote.

General powers of the President

Rule 23

1. In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon the President elsewhere by the present rules, the President shall declare the opening and closing of the session, preside at the meetings of the session, ensure the observance of the present rules, accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote and announce decisions. The President shall rule on points of order and, subject to the present rules, shall have complete control of the proc edings and over the maintenance of order thereat.

2. The President may propose to the Conference of the Parties the closure of the list of speakers, a limitation on the time to be allowed to speakers and on the number of times each representative may speak on a question, the adjournment or the closure of the debate and the suspension or the adjournment of a meeting.

3. The President, in the exercise of the powers of that office, remains under the authority of the Conference of the Parties.

Acting President

Rule 24

1. The President, if temporarily absent from a meeting or any part thereof, shall designate a Vice-President to act as President. The President so designated shall not at the same time exercise the rights of a representative of a Party.

2. A Vice-President acting as President shall have the powers and duties of the President.

Replacement of an officer

Rule 25

If an officer of the Bureau resigns or is otherwise unable to complete the assigned term of office or to perform the functions of that office, a representative of the same Party shall be named by the Party concerned to replace the said officer for the remainder of that officer's mandate.

Temporary President

Rule 26

At the first meeting of each ordinary session, the President of the previous ordinary session, or in the absence of the President, a Vice-President, shall preside until the Conference of the Parties has elected a President for the session.

VII. SUBSIDIARY BODIES

Application of rules to subsidiary bodies

Rule 27

Save as provided in rules 28 to 33, the present rules shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the proceedings of any subsidiary bodies.

Establishment of subsidiary bodies

Rule 28

1. The Conference of the Parties may establish such subsidiary bodies as are deemed necessary for the implementation of the Convention.

2. Meetings of standing subsidiary bodies shall be public unless the subsidiary body concerned decides otherwise.

3. Meetings of ad hoc subsidiary bodies shall be private unless the ad hoc subsidiary body concerned decides otherwise.

Quorum for non open-ended subsidiary bodies

Rule 29

In the case of a subsidiary body that is not open-ended, a majority of the Parties designated by the Conference of the Parties to participate therein shall constitute a quorum.

Dates of meetings

Rule 30

The Committee on Science and Technology shall meet in conjunction with the ordinary sessions of the Conference of the Parties. Meetings of any other subsidiary bodies shall be held in conjunction with the sessions of the Conference of the Parties, unless the Conference of the Parties decides otherwise.

Election of officers of subsidiary bodies

Rule 31

The Chairperson of the Committee on Science and Technology shall be elected by the Conference of the Parties. Unless the Conference of the Parties decides otherwise, the Chairperson of any other subsidiary body shall be elected by the Conference of the Parties. Each subsidiary body shall elect its own [four] Vice-Chairpersons, one of which shall act as Rapporteur. The Chairperson and [four] Vice-Chairpersons of such subsidiary bodies shall be elected with due regard to the need to ensure equitable geographical distribution and adequate representation of affected country Parties [in the regions referred to in the implementation annexes of the Convention], particularly those in Africa, and shall not serve for more than two consecutive terms.

Voting in subsidiary bodies

Rule 32

Subject to rule 31, subsidiary bodies shall not take votes.

Matters for consideration

Rule 33

Subject to article 24 of the Convention, the Conference of the Parties shall determine the matters to be considered by each subsidiary body and may authorize the President, upon the request of a subsidiary body, to adjust the allocation of work.

VIII. PERMANENT SECRETARIAT

Duties of the head of the Permanent Secretariat

Rule 34

1. The head of the Permanent Secretariat, or the representative of the head of the Permanent Secretariat, shall exercise the functions of that office in all sessions of the Conference of the Parties and of its subsidiary bodies.

2. The head of the Permanent Secretariat shall arrange for the provision of staff and services required by the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies, within available resources. The head of the Permanent Secretariat shall manage and direct such staff and services and provide appropriate support and advice to the presiding and other officers of the Conference of the Parties and of its subsidiary bodies.

Functions of the Permanent Secretariat

Rule 35

In addition to its functions specified in the Convention, particularly in article 23, the Permanent Secretariat shall in accordance with the present rules:

(a) Arrange for interpretation at the session;

(b) Collect, translate, reproduce and distribute the documents of the session;

(c) Publish and distribute the official documents of the session;

(d) Make, and arrange for keeping of, sound recordings of the session;

(e) Arrange for the custody and preservation of the documents of the session; and

(f) Perform all other work that the Conference of the Parties may require.

IX. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Meetings

Rule 36

1. Meetings of the Conference of the Parties shall be held in public, unless the Conference of the Parties decides otherwise.

Quorum

Rule 37

The President shall not declare a meeting of the Conference of the Parties open or permit the debate to proceed unless at least one third of the Parties to the Convention are present. The presence of two thirds of the Parties to the Convention shall be required for any decision to be taken.

Procedures for speaking

Rule 38

1. No one may speak at a meeting of the Conference of the Parties without having previously obtained the permission of the President. Subject to rules 39, 40, 41 and 43, the President shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak. The Permanent Secretariat shall maintain a list of speakers. The President may call a speaker to order if the speaker's remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

2. The Conference of the Parties may, on a proposal from the President or from any Party, limit the time allowed to each speaker and the number of times each representative may speak on a question. Before a decision is taken, two representatives may speak in favour of and two against a proposal to set such limits. When the debate is limited and a speaker exceeds the allotted time, the President shall call the speaker to order without delay.

Precedence

Rule 39

The Chairperson or Rapporteur of a subsidiary body may be accorded precedence for the purpose of explaining the conclusions arrived at by that subsidiary body.

Points of order

Rule 40

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may at any time raise a point of order which shall be decided immediately by the President in accordance with the present rules. A representative may appeal against the ruling of the President. The appeal shall be put to the vote immediately and the ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the Parties present and voting. A representative may not, in raising a point of order, speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

Decisions on competence

Rule 41

Any motion calling for a decision on the competence of the Conference of the Parties to discuss any matter or to adopt a proposal or an amendment to a proposal submitted to it shall be put to the vote before the matter is discussed or a vote taken on the proposal or amendment in question.

Proposals and amendments to proposals

Rule 42

Proposals and amendments to proposals shall normally be introduced in writing, in one of the official languages, by the Parties and handed to the Permanent Secretariat, which shall circulate copies to delegations. As a general rule, no proposal shall be discussed or put to the vote at any meeting unless copies of it have been circulated to delegations in all the official languages not later than the day preceding the meeting. The President may, however, permit the discussion and consideration of proposals, amendments to proposals or of procedural motions even though these proposals, amendments or motions have not been circulated or have been circulated only the same day.

Order of procedural motions

Rule 43

1. Subject to rule 40, the following motions shall have precedence in the order indicated below over all other proposals or motions:

(a) To suspend the meeting;

(b) To adjourn the meeting;

(c) To adjourn the debate on the question under discussion;

(d) To close the debate on the question under discussion.

2. Permission to speak on a motion falling within paragraph 1 (a) to (d) shall be granted only to the proposer and, in addition, to one speaker in favour of and two against the motion, after which it shall be put immediately to the vote.

Withdrawal of proposals or motions

Rule 44

A proposal or motion may be withdrawn by its proposer at any time before voting on it has begun, provided that the proposal or motion has not been amended. A proposal or motion thus withdrawn may be reintroduced by any other Party.

Reconsideration of proposals

Rule 45

When a proposal has been adopted or rejected, it may not be reconsidered at the same session, unless the Conference of the Parties, by a two-thirds majority of the Parties present and voting, so decides. Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider shall be accorded only to the mover, to one speaker in favour of, and two against, the proposal, after which it shall be put immediately to the vote.

X. VOTING

Right to vote

Rule 46

1. Each Party shall have one vote, except as provided for in paragraph 2.

2. Regional economic integration organizations, in matters within their competence, shall exercise their right to vote with a number of votes equal to the number of their member States that are Parties to the Convention. Such an organization shall not exercise its right to vote if any of its member States exercises its right, and vice versa.

Majority required

Rule 47

1. [The Parties shall make every effort to reach agreement on all matters of substance by consensus. If all efforts to reach consensus have been exhausted and no agreement has been reached, the decision shall, as a last resort, be taken by a two-thirds majority vote of the Parties present and voting, [except for decisions taken under article 21 [and article 22 paragraph 2 (g)] of the Convention which shall be agreed upon by consensus, or] [unless otherwise provided by

(a) the Convention,

(b) the financial rules referred to in article 22, paragraph 2 (e) of the Convention, or

(c) the present rules of procedure.]]

2. Decisions of the Conference of the Parties on matters of procedure shall be taken by a majority vote of the Parties present and voting.

3. If the question arises as to whether a matter is one of a procedural or substantive nature, the President shall rule on the question. An appeal against this ruling shall be put to the vote immediately and the President's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the Parties present and voting.

4. If, on matters other than elections, a vote is equally divided, a second vote shall be taken. If this vote is also equally divided, the proposal shall be regarded as withdrawn.

Order of voting on proposals

Rule 48

If two or more proposals relate to the same question, the Conference of the Parties, unless it decides otherwise, shall vote on the proposals in the order in which they have been submitted. The Conference of the Parties may, after each vote on a proposal, decide whether to vote on the next proposal.

Division of proposals and amendments

Rule 49

1. Any representative may request that any part of a proposal or of an amendment to a proposal be voted on separately. The President shall allow the request unless a Party objects. If an objection is made to the request for division, the President shall permit two representatives to speak, one in favour of and the other against the request, after which it shall be put immediately to the vote. The President may limit the time allowed to each speaker.

2. If the request referred to in paragraph 1 is allowed or adopted, those parts of a proposal or of an amendment to a proposal which are approved shall then be put to the vote as a whole. If all the operative parts of a proposal or amendment have been rejected, the proposal or amendment shall be considered to have been rejected as a whole.

Amendment to a proposal

Rule 50

A motion is considered to be an amendment to a proposal if it merely adds to, deletes from, or revises parts of that proposal. An amendment shall be voted on before the proposal to which it relates is put to the vote, and if the amendment is adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted on.

Order of voting on amendments to a proposal

Rule 51

If two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Conference of the Parties shall first vote on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal, then on the amendment next furthest removed therefrom, and so on, until all amendments have been put to the vote. The President shall determine the order of voting on the amendments under this rule.

Method of voting for general matters

Rule 52

1. Voting, except for elections, shall normally be by show of hands. A roll-call vote shall be taken if one is requested by any Party. It shall be taken in the order used or established by the rules of procedure of the General Assembly of the United Nations. However, if at any time a Party requests a secret ballot, that shall be the method of voting on the issue in question.

2. When the Conference of the Parties votes by mechanical means, a non-recorded vote shall replace a vote by show of hands and a recorded vote shall replace a roll-call.

3. The vote of each Party participating in a roll-call or recorded vote shall be included in the relevant documents of the session.

Conduct during voting

Rule 53

After the President has announced the beginning of voting, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual conduct of the voting. The President may permit the Parties to explain their votes, either before or after the voting. The President may limit the time to be allowed for such explanations. The President shall not permit the proposer of a proposal or of an amendment to a proposal to explain his/her vote on his/her own proposal or amendment, except if it has been amended.

XI. ELECTIONS

Method of voting for elections

Rule 54

All elections shall be held by secret ballot, unless otherwise decided by the Conference of the Parties.

Absence of majority

Rule 55

1. If, when one person or one delegation is to be elected, no candidate obtains in the first ballot a majority of the votes cast by the Parties present and voting, a second ballot restricted to the two candidates obtaining the largest number of votes shall be taken. If in the second ballot the votes are equally divided the President shall decide between the candidates by drawing lots.

2. In the case of a tie in the first ballot among three or more candidates obtaining the largest number of votes, a second ballot shall be held. If a tie results among more than two candidates, the number shall be reduced to two by lot and the balloting, restricted to them, shall continue in accordance with the procedure set forth in paragraph 1.

Election to two or more elective places

Rule 56

1. When two or more elective places are to be filled at one time under the same conditions, those candidates, not exceeding the number of such places, obtaining in the first ballot the largest number of votes and a majority of the votes cast by the Parties present and voting shall be deemed elected.

2. If the number of candidates obtaining such majority is less than the number of persons or delegations to be elected, there shall be additional ballots to fill the remaining places, the voting being restricted to the candidates obtaining the greatest number of votes in the previous ballot, to a number not more than twice the places remaining to be filled, provided that, after the third inconclusive ballot, votes may be cast for any eligible person or delegation.

3. If three such unrestricted ballots are inconclusive, the next three ballots shall be restricted to the candidates who obtained the greatest number of votes in the third of the unrestricted ballots, to a number not more than twice the places remaining to be filled, and the following three ballots thereafter shall be unrestricted, and so on until all the places have been filled.

XII. LANGUAGES AND SOUND RECORDS

Official languages

Rule 57

The official languages of the Conference of the Parties shall be Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

Interpretation

Rule 58

1. Statements made in an official language shall be interpreted into the other official languages.

2. A representative of a Party may speak in a language other than an official language if the Party provides for interpretation into one such official language.

Languages of official documents

Rule 59

Official documents of the sessions shall be drawn up in one of the off languages and translated into the other official languages.

Sound records of sessions

Rule 60

Sound records of the sessions of the Conference of the Parties whenever possible of the subsidiary bodies, shall be kept by the Per Secretariat, consistent with the practice of the United Nations.

XIII. AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

Amendments

Rule 61

The present rules of procedure may be amended by the Conference of Parties by consensus.

XIV. OVERRIDING AUTHORITY OF THE CONVENTION

Precedence of Convention

Rule 62

In the event of any conflict between any provision of the present rule any provision of the Convention, the latter shall prevail.

XV. MISCELLANEOUS

Italicized headings

Rule 63

The italicized headings of the present rules are for reference purp only. They shall be disregarded in the interpretation of the rules.

B. Participation of non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 22, paragraph 7, of the Convention,

Noting rule 7 of the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties, which provides that any body or agency, whether national or international, governmental or non-governmental, that is qualified in matters covered by the Convention, and that has informed the permanent secretariat of its wish to be represented at a session of the Conference of the Parties as an observer, may be so admitted unless at least one third of the Parties present object,

Noting also that such rule 7 also provides that such observers may, upon invitation of the President, participate without the right to vote in the proceedings of any session in matters of direct concern to the body or agency they represent, unless at least one third of the Parties present at the session object,

Decides:

(a) To accredit to the first session of the Conference of the Parties the non-governmental organizations previously accredited to sessions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, as listed in annex I to the present decision;

(b) To accredit to the first and subsequent sessions of the Conference of the Parties those additional non-governmental organizations that the Secretariat may recommend for accreditation, as listed in annex II to the present decision;

(c) In deciding on the accreditation of additional non-governmental organizations to the second and subsequent ordinary or extraordinary sessions of the Conference of the Parties, the Conference of the Parties shall take account of decisions 1/1 and 2/1 concerning the participation of non-governmental organizations as adopted by the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at its first and second sessions (A/45/46, annex I and A/46/48, annex I). Non-governmental organizations so accredited may participate in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties;

(d) To accord observer status at the first session of the Conference of the Parties to all the intergovernmental organizations previously accorded such status at sessions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, as listed in annex III to the present decision;

(e) To accord observer status at the first and subsequent sessions of the Conference of the Parties to those additional intergovernmental organizations that the Secretariat may recommend to be accorded such status, as listed in annex IV to the present decision;

(f) In deciding on according observer status to additional intergovernmental organizations to the second and subsequent ordinary or extraordinary sessions of the Conference of the Parties, the Conference of the Parties shall bear in mind the established practice of the General Assembly of the United Nations. Organizations accorded such status may participate in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties.

Annex I

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS PREVIOUSLY ACCREDITED TO SESSIONS OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR THE ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN THOSE COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA

Those non-governmental organizations referred to in the following decisions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee: 1/1,[1] 2/2, 3/1, 4/1, 5/1, 6/1, 7/1, 8/1, 9/1 and 10/1.[2]

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[1] Except for the Southern Africa Regional Commission for the Conservation and Utilization of the Soil (SARCCUS), which was accorded observer status as an intergovernmental organization by decision 2/3.

[2] A reservation was expressed after the adoption of this decision with respect to the non-governmental organization referred to in paragraph 10 of document A/AC.241/9/Add.13 and Corr.1, in terms of its participation in the Conference of the Parties.

Annex II

ADDITIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS TO BE ACCREDITED TO THE FIRST AND SUBSEQUENT SESSIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

[To be completed]

Annex III

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS PREVIOUSLY ACCORDED OBSERVER STATUS AT SESSIONS OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR THE ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN THOSE COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA

1. Arab Maghreb Union (AMU).

2. Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

3. Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS).

4. Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS).

5. Southern African Development Community (SADC).

6. Centre for Environment and Development, Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE).

7. Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research/International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (CGIAR/ICRISAT).

8. Southern African Regional Commission for the Conservation and Utilization of Soil (SARCCUS).

Annex IV

ADDITIONAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS TO BE ACCORDED OBSERVER STATUS AT THE FIRST AND SUBSEQUENT SESSIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

[To be completed]

C. Financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the permanent secretariat

The Conference of the Parties,

Considering the provisions of the Convention, particularly article 22, paragraph 2 (e), which stipulates that the Conference of the Parties shall adopt, at its first session, financial rules for itself and any subsidiary bodies,

Having examined the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the permanent secretariat,

Decides to adopt the financial rules annexed to the present decision.

Annex

FINANCIAL RULES FOR THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN THOSE COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA, ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT

Scope

1. The present rules shall govern the financial administration of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, its subsidiary bodies and the permanent secretariat. In so far as not specifically provided by the present rules, the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations shall apply.

Financial period

2. The financial period shall be a biennium, of which the first calendar year shall be an even-numbered year.

Budget

3. The head of the permanent secretariat shall prepare the budget estimates for the following biennium in United States dollars showing projected income and expenditures for each year of the biennium concerned. The head of the permanent secretariat shall dispatch the estimates to all Parties to the Convention at least ninety days before the opening of the session of the Conference of the Parties at which the budget is to be adopted.

4. The Conference of the Parties shall, prior to the commencement of the financial period that the budget covers, consider the budget estimates and adopt by consensus a core budget authorizing expenditures other than those referred to in paragraphs 9 and 10.

5. Adoption of the core budget by the Conference of the Parties shall constitute authority to the head of the permanent secretariat to incur obligations and make payments for the purposes for which the appropriations were approved and up to the amounts so approved, provided always that, unless specifically authorized by the Conference of the Parties, commitments shall be covered by related income.

6. The head of the permanent secretariat may make transfers within each of the main appropriation lines of the approved core budget. The head of the permanent secretariat may also make transfers between such appropriation lines up to limits which the Conference of the Parties may set as appropriate.

Funds

7. A General Fund for the Convention shall be established by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and managed by the head of the permanent secretariat. Contributions made pursuant to paragraph 12 (a), along with any additional contributions to offset core budget expenditures that are made, pursuant to paragraphs 12 (b) and 12 (c), by the Government hosting the permanent secretariat and by the United Nations shall be credited to the General Fund. All core budget expenditures made pursuant to paragraph 5 shall be charged to the General Fund.

8. Within the General Fund there shall be maintained a working capital reserve at a level to be determined from time to time by the Conference of the Parties by consensus. The purpose of the working capital reserve shall be to ensure continuity of operations in the event of a temporary shortfall of cash. Drawdowns from the working capital reserve shall be restored from contributions as soon as possible.

9. A Supplementary Fund shall be established by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and managed by the head of the permanent secretariat. The Supplementary Fund shall receive contributions pursuant to paragraphs 12 (b) and

(c), other than those specified in paragraphs 7 and 10, including contributions earmarked, in accordance with paragraph 15, for:

(a) Support to the participation of some representatives of non-governmental organizations from affected developing country Parties, particularly the least developed among them, in sessions of the Conference of the Parties;

(b) Facilitation of assistance to affected developing countries in accordance with article 23, paragraph 2 (c), and article 26, paragraph 7, of the Convention;

(c) Other appropriate purposes consistent with the objectives of the Convention.

10. A Special Fund shall be established by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and managed by the head of the permanent secretariat. The Special Fund shall receive contributions pursuant to paragraphs 12 (b) and (c) earmarked to support the participation of representatives of developing, and in particular least developed, country Parties affected by desertification and/or drought, particularly those in Africa, in the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies.

11. In the event that the Conference of the Parties decides to terminate a fund established pursuant to the present rules, it shall so advise the Secretary-General of the United Nations at least six months before the date of termination so decided. The Conference of the Parties shall decide, in consultation with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, on the distribution of any uncommitted balances after all liquidation expenses have been met.

Contributions

12. The resources of the Conference of the Parties shall comprise:

(a) Contributions made each year by Parties on the basis of an indicative scale adopted by consensus by the Conference of the Parties, and based on such a scale of assessments of the United Nations as may be adopted from time to time by the General Assembly, adjusted so as to ensure that no Party contributes less than 0.01 per cent of the total, that no one contribution exceeds 25 per cent of the total and that no contribution from a least developed country Party exceeds 0.01 per cent of the total;

(b) Other contributions made by Parties in addition to those made pursuant to paragraph (a);

(c) Contributions from States not Parties to the Convention, as well as governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and other sources;

(d) The uncommitted balance of appropriations from previous financial periods attributed to the fund concerned;

(e) Miscellaneous income attributed to the fund concerned.

13. The Conference of the Parties shall, in adopting the indicative scale of contributions referred to in paragraph 12 (a), make adjustments to take account of contributions of Parties which are not members of the United Nations, as well as those of regional economic integration organizations that are Parties.

14. In respect of contributions made pursuant to paragraph 12 (a):

(a) Contributions for each calendar year are expected on or before 1 January of that year;

(b) Each Party shall, as far in advance as possible of the date due for the contribution, inform the head of the permanent secretariat of the contribution it intends to make and of the projected timing of that contribution.

15. Contributions made pursuant to paragraphs 12 (b) and (c) shall be used in accordance with such terms and conditions, consistent with the objectives of the Convention, as may be agreed between the head of the permanent secretariat and the contributor. Contributions to the Supplementary Fund referred to in paragraph 9 shall, as appropriate, be placed in sub-accounts.

16. Contributions made pursuant to paragraph 12 (a) from States and regional economic integration organizations that become Parties to the Convention after the beginning of a financial period shall be made pro rata temporis for the balance of that financial period. Consequent adjustments shall be made at the end of each financial period for other Parties.

17. All contributions shall be paid in United States dollars or its equivalent in a convertible currency into a bank account to be designated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in consultation with the head of the permanent secretariat.

18. The head of the permanent secretariat shall acknowledge promptly all pledges and contributions and shall inform the Parties, once a year, of the status of pledges and payments of contributions.

19. Contributions not immediately required shall be invested at the discretion of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in consultation with the head of the permanent secretariat. The resulting income shall be credited to the appropriate fund or funds referred to in paragraphs 7, 9 and 10.

Accounts and audit

20. The accounts and financial management of all funds governed by the present rules shall be subject to the internal and external audit process of the United Nations.

21. During the second year of the financial period the United Nations shall provide the Parties with an interim statement of accounts for the first year of the financial period. The United Nations shall also, as soon as practicable, provide to the Parties a final audited statement of accounts for the full financial period.

Administrative support costs

22. The Conference of the Parties, under such terms as may from time to time be mutually agreed upon between it and the United Nations, shall reimburse the United Nations from the funds referred to in paragraphs 7, 9 and 10, as the case may be for the purposes of services rendered, including the administration of the relevant fund by the United Nations, to the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the permanent secretariat.

Amendments

23. Any amendment to the present rules shall be adopted by the Conference of the Parties by consensus.

D. Designation of a permanent secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: administrative and support arrangements

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling that the Conference of the Parties, in accordance with article 23, paragraph 3, of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, shall, at its first session, designate a permanent secretariat and make arrangement for its functioning,

Having examined the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on the administrative arrangements involved in the designation of a permanent secretariat and arrangements for its functioning,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the advice of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on this matter, as contained in document A/AC.241/44, as amended in paragraph 4 of document A/AC.241/55, as well as the clarifications in document A/AC.241/64 and related comments made in Working Group I of the Committee;

2. *Also notes with appreciation* the advice of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme on this matter, as contained in document A/AC.241/55/Add.2, as well as the clarifications in document A/AC.241/64 and related comments made in Working Group I of the Committee;

3. *Accepts* the offer of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, contained in documents A/AC.241/44 and A/AC.241/55, for the United Nations to provide the administrative and support arrangements for the Convention secretariat, and requests the Secretary-General to provide these administrative and support arrangements for the permanent secretariat of the Convention, pursuant to article 23 of the Convention;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to appoint, after consultation with the Conference of the Parties, through its Bureau, the Executive Secretary of the Convention, with the term and level of the latter to be decided by the Conference of the Parties;

5. *Decides* that, in order for the permanent secretariat to enjoy the administrative and financial autonomy necessary to ensure efficient servicing of the Convention and of its implementation, it should not be fully integrated into the work programme and management structure of any particular department or programme of the United Nations;

6. *Decides* to review these arrangements not later than at its fourth session, in consultation with the Secretary-General, with a view to making such modifications as may be considered desirable by both parties;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to pursue the question of the allotment of overhead to defer administrative expenses as indicated in the advice of the Secretary-General and to report the results at its second session;

8. *Expresses its appreciation* to the departments and programmes of the United Nations, as well as agencies of the United Nations system, that have supported the interim secretariat of the Convention and the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee process in general, expresses the desire that the support and cooperation given by those departments, programmes and agencies should continue, and invites these entities and the Executive Secretary to collaborate in reaching understandings that specify the nature of cooperation and support that each entity would provide to the permanent secretariat.

E. Procedures for the communication of information and review of implementation

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 26 of the Convention, which provides that each Party shall communicate to the Conference of the Parties at its ordinary sessions, through the permanent secretariat, reports on measures which it has taken for the implementation of the Convention and that the Conference of the Parties shall determine the timetable for submission and the format of such reports,

Recalling also article 22, paragraph 2 (a) of the Convention, which provides that the Conference of the Parties shall regularly review the implementation of the Convention and the functioning of its institutional arrangements in the light of the experience gained at the national, subregional, regional and international levels and on the basis of the evolution of scientific and technological knowledge,

Recalling further article 22, paragraph 2 (b) of the Convention, which provides that the Conference of the Parties shall promote and facilitate the exchange of information on measures adopted by the Parties, and determine the form and timetable for transmitting the information to be submitted pursuant to article 26, review the reports and make recommendations on them,

Conscious of the desirability of adopting procedures to organize and streamline the communication of information,

Having reviewed the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on this issue,

Decides to adopt the procedures attached to the present decision.

Introduction

1. The purpose of the present procedures is to organize and streamline the communication of information pursuant to article 26 of the Convention in order to facilitate the regular review of implementation by the Conference of the Parties, in accordance with article 22, paragraph 2 (a) of the Convention, and to promote and facilitate the exchange of information on measures adopted by the Parties pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2 (b) of the Convention.

2. Specific objectives of the procedures include the following:

(a) To ensure the effective assessment of progress towards achieving the objectives of the Convention and to enable the Conference of the Parties to make appropriate recommendations to further those objectives;

(b) To exchange information and data among Parties in order to maximize the benefits of successful measures and initiatives under the Convention;

(c) To ensure that the Committee on Science and Technology and the global mechanism have access to the information and data necessary to carry out their mandates;

(d) To ensure that information on implementation is in the public domain and available to the international community, particularly intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and other interested entities.

General obligation to report

3. Each Party shall communicate to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its ordinary sessions, through the permanent secretariat, reports on the measures which it has taken for the implementation of the Convention.

4. Affected country Parties shall provide a description of the strategies established pursuant to article 5 of the Convention and of any relevant information on their implementation.

5. Affected country Parties which implement action programmes pursuant to articles 9 to 15 of the Convention shall provide a detailed description of the programmes and their implementation.

6. In addition to reports on action programmes pursuant to paragraph 5, any group of affected country Parties may make a joint communication, directly or through a competent subregional or regional organization, on measures taken at the subregional and/or regional levels in implementation of the Convention.

7. Developed country Parties shall report on measures taken to assist in the preparation and implementation of action programmes, including information on the financial resources they have provided, or are providing, under the Convention.

8. Parties are encouraged to make full use of the expertise of competent intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the preparation of reports and in the dissemination of relevant information.

9. Relevant organs, funds and programmes of the United Nations, as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, are encouraged to provide information, as appropriate, on their activities in support of the preparation and implementation of action programmes under the Convention.

Format and content of reports

10. Reports should be as concise as possible to facilitate their review. They should be structured as follows, taking into account the degree of development of action programmes and other relevant circumstances:

(a) Reports on national action programmes

(i) A table of contents;

(ii) A summary not exceeding six pages;

(iii) The strategies and priorities established within the framework of sustainable development plans and/or policies;

(iv) The institutional measures taken to implement the Convention;

(v) The participatory process in support of the preparation and implementation of the action programme;

(vi) The consultative process in support of the preparation and implementation of the national action programme and the partnership agreement with developed country Parties and other interested entities;

(vii) The measures taken or planned within the framework of the national action programmes, including measures to improve the economic environment, to conserve natural resources, to improve institutional organization, to improve knowledge of desertification and to monitor and assess the effects of drought;

(viii) Financial allocations from national budgets in support of implementation as well as financial assistance and technical cooperation received and needed, identifying and prioritizing requirements;

(ix) A review of the benchmarks and indicators utilized to measure progress and an assessment thereof;

(b) Reports on joint, subregional and regional action programmes

(i) A table of contents;

(ii) A summary not exceeding six pages;

(iii) The areas of cooperation under the programme and measures taken or planned;

(iv) The consultative process in support of the preparation and implementation of the subregional or regional action programmes and the partnership agreement with developed country Parties and other interested entities;

(v) Financial allocations by affected country Parties of the subregion or region in support of implementation as well as financial assistance and technical cooperation received and needed, identifying and prioritizing requirements;

(vi) A review of the benchmarks and indicators utilized to measure progress and an assessment thereof;

(c) Reports of developed country Parties

(i) A table of contents;

(ii) A summary not exceeding six pages;

(iii) The consultative processes and partnership agreements which they are involved;

(iv) Measures taken to support the preparation implementation of action programmes at all leve including information on the financial resources they h provided, or are providing, both bilaterally multilaterally;

(d) Reports of affected developed country Parties not preparing act programmes

(i) A table of contents;

(ii) A summary not exceeding six pages;

(iii) The strategies and priorities, within the framework sustainable development plans and/or policies, to com desertification and mitigate the effects of drought and relevant information on their implementation.

11. Information provided by relevant organs, funds and programmes of the Uni Nations, as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizatio should include summaries, in principle not exceeding four pages.

Language of reports

12. Reports shall be communicated to the permanent secretariat in one of official languages of the Conference of the Parties.

Timetable for the submission of reports

13. The Conference of the Parties shall initiate, at its third session, rev of the reports submitted by the Parties, alternating between affected Afri country Parties and affected country Parties of other regions. At its th session, the Conference of the Parties shall examine the reports of affec African country Parties. At its fourth session, the Conference of the Part shall examine the reports of affected country Parties of other regions. S rotation shall apply to subsequent sessions.

14. Developed country Parties shall report, at each session, on measures ta to assist action programmes of those affected developing country Parties report for the session. Relevant organs, funds and programmes of the United Nations, well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, are invi to do likewise.

15. Reports shall be submitted to the permanent secretariat at least six mon prior to the session at which they are to be reviewed.

Compilation and synthesis by the permanent secretariat

16. The permanent secretariat shall compile the summaries of reports submit pursuant to paragraphs 3 to 7, and of information provided by relevant orga funds and programmes of the United Nations, as well as other intergovernmental non-governmental organizations, on measures taken or planned in support implementation of the Convention.

17. The permanent secretariat shall prepare, in addition, a synthesis of reports setting out the trends emerging in the implementation of the Conventi

Review process

18. Reports by Parties, together with advice and information provided by the Committee on Science and Technology and the global mechanism consistent with their respective mandates and such other reports as the Conference of the Parties may call for, shall constitute the basis of the review of implementation by the Conference of the Parties.

Periodic reports

19. After the third ordinary session and following every subsequent ordinary session of the Conference of the Parties, the permanent secretariat shall prepare a report summarizing the conclusions of the review process.

Official documents

20. Documents prepared by the permanent secretariat in accordance with paragraphs 16, 17 and 19 shall constitute official documents of the Conference of the Parties.

Availability of reports

21. All reports communicated to the permanent secretariat in accordance with the present procedures, as well as institutional information pursuant to paragraph 22, shall be in the public domain. The permanent secretariat shall make available copies of the reports to any interested Parties and other entities or individuals.

Communication of institutional information to the permanent secretariat

22. To facilitate exchanges of information and informal contacts within and outside the review process, Parties shall communicate to the permanent secretariat, as soon as practicable, information concerning the names, addresses and phone numbers of national, subregional, and regional focal points and coordinating bodies.

23. The permanent secretariat shall keep in databases and/or directories, and regularly update, information provided in accordance with the present procedures.

Assistance to developing country Parties in the preparation of reports

24. The permanent secretariat shall, on request and within the limits of its resources, facilitate assistance to affected developing country Parties, particularly affected African country Parties and least developed Parties among them, in the compilation and communication of information pursuant to the present procedures, or seek such assistance from bilateral donors and/or competent intergovernmental organizations.

F. Organization of scientific and technological cooperation[1]

Terms of reference of the Committee on Science and Technology

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 24, paragraph 1, of the Convention, which provides that the Conference of the Parties shall decide, at its first session, on the terms of reference of the Committee on Science and Technology,

Recalling also article 22, paragraph (2) (h), of the Convention, which provides that the Conference of the Parties shall, as appropriate, seek the cooperation of, and utilize the services of and information provided by, competent bodies or agencies, whether national or international, intergovernmental or non-governmental,

Having reviewed the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on the terms of reference of the Committee on Science and Technology,

Decides to adopt the terms of reference attached to the present decision.

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[1] The decision was adopted at the ninth session of the Committee, it being understood that Spain was not a party to the decision, and has a reservation with respect to section I, part II, paragraph 6 (composition of the Bureau) and will return to the discussion of this paragraph.

1. Terms of reference of the Committee on Science and Technology

Introduction

1. In accordance with the provisions of the Convention, the Committee on Science and Technology (hereinafter referred to as "the Committee") is a subsidiary body of the Conference of the Parties. The role of the Committee is to provide the Conference of the Parties with information and advice on scientific and technological matters relating to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought to ensure that its decisions are based on the most up-to-date scientific knowledge.

Functions

2. Consistent with the provisions of the Convention, particularly its articles 16 to 18 and 24, and at the request of the Conference of the Parties, the functions of the Committee include the following.

(a) Advisory functions

(i) Provide scientific and technological information needed to implement the Convention.

(ii) Collect information, analyse, assess and report on the impact of developments in science and technology and give advice on the possible utilization of such developments for the implementation of the Convention.

(iii) Advise the Conference of the Parties on the possible implications of the evolution of scientific and technological knowledge for programmes and activities under the Convention, particularly in connection with the review of implementation pursuant to paragraph 22 (2) (a) of the Convention.

(iv) Advise on possible research priorities for particular regions and subregions, reflecting different local conditions.

(v) Make recommendations on the establishment of ad hoc panels, including issues relating to the terms of reference, composition and modalities of work of the panels.

(vi) Advise on the structure, membership and maintenance of the roster of independent experts bearing in mind the recognition in the Convention of local knowledge and expertise.

(b) Data and information functions

(i) Make recommendations regarding the collection, analysis and exchange of data and information to ensure systematic observation of land degradation in affected areas and assess the processes and effects of drought and desertification.

(ii) Make recommendations on pertinent, quantifiable and verifiable indicators which might be used in connection with action programmes.

(c) Research and review functions

(i) Make recommendations regarding specialized research on the scientific and technological tools necessary to implement the Convention and on evaluation of the results of such research.

(ii) Identify, as appropriate, new scientific and technological approaches with particular reference to the multidisciplinary aspects of combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought.

(iii) Make recommendations for promoting cooperative and comparative research between regions with different cultural and socio-economic circumstances.

(iv) Make recommendations for promoting participative research on relevant traditional and local technology, knowledge, know-how and practices to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought through, *inter alia*, the utilization of information and services provided by local populations and other competent bodies, including intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

(d) Functions related to technology

(i) Make recommendations on ways and means to identify and use technology, knowledge, know-how and practices relevant to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought.

(ii) Make recommendations on ways and means to exchange information regarding technology, knowledge, know-how and practices, including through the network referred to in paragraphs 3 and 4.

(e) Evaluation functions

(i) Monitor the application of science and technology to research projects relating to the implementation of the Convention and report to the Conference of the Parties.

(ii) Examine the scientific and technological relevance and feasibility of research conducted pursuant to action programmes under the Convention.

Networking of institutions, agencies and bodies

3. In accordance with article 25 of the Convention, the Committee shall, under the supervision of the Conference of the Parties, make provision for the undertaking of a survey and evaluation of the relevant existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies willing to become units of a network to support the implementation of the Convention.

4. On the basis of the results of the survey and evaluation referred to in paragraph 3, the Committee shall make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties on ways and means to facilitate and strengthen networking of the units at the local, national and other levels, with a view to ensuring that the thematic needs set out in articles 16 to 19 of the Convention are addressed.

Composition and Bureau

5. The Committee shall be multidisciplinary and open to the participation of all Parties. It shall be composed of government representatives competent in fields of expertise relevant to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought.

6. The Committee shall elect its own Vice-Chairpersons, one of which shall act as Rapporteur. Together with the Chairperson, elected by the Conference of the Parties in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure, they shall constitute the Bureau. The Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons shall be elected with due regard to the need to ensure equitable geographical distribution and adequate representation of affected country Parties, particularly those in Africa, and shall not serve for more than two consecutive terms.

Programme of work and reports

7. The Committee shall adopt a programme of work, which should include estimates regarding its financial implications. The programme of work shall be subject to approval by the Conference of the Parties.

8. The Committee shall report regularly to the Conference of the Parties on its work, including at each of its sessions.

9. The Bureau of the Committee shall be responsible for follow-up of the work of the Committee between sessions and may benefit from the assistance of ad hoc panels established by the Conference of the Parties.

Liaison with the scientific community and cooperation with international organizations

10. The Committee shall serve as a liaison between the Conference of the Parties and the scientific community. In carrying out its functions, it shall, in particular, seek the cooperation of, and utilize the services of and information provided by, competent bodies or agencies, whether national or international, intergovernmental or non-governmental.

11. The Committee shall keep itself informed of the activities of the scientific advisory bodies of other conventions and of relevant international organizations, and shall coordinate its activities and cooperate closely with them to avoid duplication of work and optimize results.

Transparency of work

12. The results of the work of the Committee shall be in the public domain.

2. Procedures for the establishment of ad hoc panels

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 24, paragraph 3, of the Convention, which provides that the Conference of the Parties may, as necessary, appoint ad hoc panels to provide it, through the Committee on Science and Technology, with information and advice on specific issues regarding the state of the art in fields of science and technology relevant to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought,

Having reviewed the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on the procedures for the establishment of ad hoc panels,

Decides to adopt the procedures attached to the present decision.

Procedures for the establishment of ad hoc panels

Introduction

1. The Conference of the Parties may, in principle in its ordinary session, and as necessary, appoint ad hoc panels to provide it, through the Committee on Science and Technology, with information and advice on specific issues regarding the state of the art in fields of science and technology relevant to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought.

Terms of reference and modalities of work

2. The Conference of the Parties shall, in principle in its ordinary session, determine the terms of reference and modalities of work of each ad hoc panel, including its duration.

Composition and number of ad hoc panels

3. Ad hoc panels shall be composed of experts whose names are taken from the roster of independent experts, taking into account the need for a multidisciplinary approach, an appropriate gender balance, and broad and equitable geographical representation. They shall have scientific or other relevant backgrounds and field experience.

4. The Conference of the Parties shall determine the composition of each ad hoc panel according to the specific needs of each case and shall designate a coordinator from among members of the panel to conduct the work and prepare the report. The number of members of any ad hoc panel shall not exceed twelve.

5. Every effort shall be made to ensure that the composition of the ad hoc panels reflects local and traditional knowledge and expertise.

6. The Conference of the Parties shall determine the number of ad hoc panels which, in principle, shall not exceed three at any one time.

Reports of ad hoc panels

7. Ad hoc panels shall report to the Conference of the Parties, through the Committee on Science and Technology. The Committee may not amend or revise the reports of ad hoc panels. However, it may comment or make recommendations based upon them.

8. Reports of ad hoc panels shall be in the public domain and, where appropriate, be disseminated through different mechanisms to all interested Parties.

3. Procedures for the establishment and maintenance of a roster of independent experts

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 24, paragraph 2, of the Convention, which provides that the Conference of the Parties shall establish and maintain a roster of independent experts with expertise and experience in the relevant fields, based on nominations received in writing from the Parties, taking into account the need for a multidisciplinary approach and broad geographical representation,

Having reviewed the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on the establishment of a roster of independent experts,

Decides to establish and maintain a roster of independent experts on the basis of the procedures attached to the present decision.

Establishment and maintenance of a roster of experts

Introduction

1. A roster of independent experts is hereby established in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, particularly its article 24, paragraph 2. Its purpose is to provide the Conference of the Parties with an up-to-date list of independent experts in the various fields of specialization relating to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought, from which members of ad hoc panels may be selected.

Selection of experts to be included on the roster

2. Each Party may nominate experts on the roster, taking into account the need for a multidisciplinary approach, an appropriate gender balance and broad and equitable geographical representation. Nominees shall have expertise and experience in fields relevant to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought.

3. Nominations shall be communicated by the Parties to the Secretariat through diplomatic channels. In addition to the names of the experts, the communications shall include a reference to their field(s) of expertise, as well as their addresses.

4. Experts nominated by the Parties shall *ipso facto* be included on the roster.

5. Parties may make new nominations or withdraw previous nominations to the roster at any time by so notifying the permanent secretariat through diplomatic channels.

Disciplines to be represented

6. The roster of experts should reflect the diversity of knowledge and skills needed to provide advice on combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought, taking into account the integrated approach of the Convention and the expertise required to implement the provisions of the Convention, notably its articles 16 to 19, including expertise from grass-roots organizations and non-governmental organizations.

Review by the Conference of the Parties

7. The Conference of the Parties shall review the roster regularly and at least at every other ordinary session of the Conference of the Parties and shall formulate recommendations in order for the roster to be consistent with the requirements provided for in paragraph 2 above.

Maintenance of roster

8. The permanent secretariat shall maintain the roster, which shall be in the public domain.

III. DRAFT DECISION SUBMITTED BY THE SECRETARIAT

A. Programme and budget

The Conference of the Parties

Recalling the provisions of the Convention, particularly article 22, paragraph 2 (g), which stipulates that the Conference of the Parties shall approve a programme and budget for its activities, including those of its subsidiary bodies, and undertake necessary arrangements for their financing,

Recalling also relevant provisions of the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the Permanent Secretariat, particularly paragraphs 4, 6, 8 and 12 (a) stipulating respectively that the Conference of the Parties shall:

(a) consider the budget estimates presented by the head of the Secretariat and adopt by consensus a core budget;

(b) set the limits up to which the head of the Secretariat may make transfers between the main appropriation lines of the core budget;

(c) determine by consensus the level at which the working capital reserve within the General Fund, established in accordance with paragraph 7 of the financial rules, shall be maintained; and

(d) adopt by consensus an indicative scale of contributions to be made by Parties to the General Fund.

Having considered the budget estimates for 1998, and for 1999, presented by the head of the Secretariat in accordance with paragraph 3 of the financial rules, which are contained in documents ICCD/COP(1)/3, ICCD/COP(1)/3/Add.1 and ICCD/COP(1)/4 and which take account of documents A/AC.241/46 and A/AC.241/65,

Having also considered the budget estimates for the operating expenses of the Global Mechanism presented by the two potential host institutions of the Global Mechanism, as contained in document ICCD/COP(1)/5,

Welcoming General Assembly resolution 51/180 of 16 December 1996, particularly paragraph 13 which requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations, subject to the decision of the Conference of the Parties at its first session, to consider:

(a) authorizing the secretariat established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 47/188 to act as secretariat for the transition period following the first session of the Conference of the Parties until the Permanent Secretariat designated by the Conference of the Parties begins operating, which should not be later than 31 December 1998; and

(b) maintaining the arrangements within the current programme budget for the interim secretariat to support the Convention beyond the first session of the Conference of the Parties until the Permanent Secretariat designated by the Conference of the Parties begins operating, which should not be later than 31 December 1998, and maintaining the arrangements relating to extrabudgetary funds,

Also welcoming General Assembly resolution __ of __ June 1997, which:

(a) gives the head of the interim secretariat the possibility of using the Special Voluntary Fund established by General Assembly resolution 47/188, as appropriate, to assist developing countries affected by desertification and drought, in particular the least developed countries, to participate fully and effectively in the first Conference of the Parties; and

(b) gives the head of the interim secretariat the possibility of using the Trust Fund established by General Assembly resolution 47/188, as appropriate, to support also the participation of representatives of non-governmental organizations in the work of the first Conference of the Parties,

Programme of work of the Conference of the Parties

1. *Decides* to include the following standing items on its agenda:

(a) review of the implementation of the Convention, and of its institutional arrangements, pursuant to article 22, paragraphs 2 (a) and 2 (b), and article 26, of the Convention;

(b) review, pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2 (d) of the Convention, of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology, including its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties and its programme of work, and the provision of guidance to it;

(c) review, pursuant to the same article, of the report of the Global Mechanism on its activities, and the provision of guidance to it;

(d) review of available information regarding the financing of Convention implementation by multilateral agencies and institutions, including information on the activities of the Global Environment Facility concerning desertification that relate to its four focal areas, as specified in article 20, paragraph 2 (b) of the Convention; and

(e) adoption or adjustment of the programme and budget.

2. *Further decides* to review the implementation of the Convention at its second session on the basis of statements and documents presented by delegations at that session before implementing at its third session the procedures adopted in its decision __.

3. *Also decides* to include the following selected items on the agenda for its second session and, if necessary, its third session:

(a) promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions in accordance with article 8 and article 22, paragraph 2 (i), of the Convention;

(b) consideration and adoption, pursuant to article 27 of the Convention, of procedures and institutional mechanism for the resolution of questions that may arise with regard to implementation; and

(c) adoption, in accordance with article 28, paragraph 2 (a), of the Convention, of an annex containing arbitration procedures.

4. *Requests* the Secretariat to circulate at least three months prior to the second session of the Conference of the Parties a provisional annotated agenda, and appropriate documentation for that session, reflecting the decisions in paragraphs 1-3 above.

5. *Recalls* the requirement of article 21, paragraph 7, of the Convention that the Conference of the Parties shall at its third session review the policies, operational modalities and activities of the Global Mechanism and, on the basis of that review, consider and take appropriate action.

Interim arrangements

6. *Requests* the General Assembly and the Secretary-General of the United Nations to take all action necessary to put in place the interim arrangements described in General Assembly resolution 51/180.

7. *Further requests* the General Assembly to include the second session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the meetings of its subsidiary bodies in the calendar of conferences and meetings for 1997-1998.

8. *Notes with appreciation* the contributions made thus far to the Trust Fund established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 47/188, and invites Parties, as well as Governments of States not Parties, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations, to continue to make voluntary contributions to that fund during the transition period following the first session of the Conference of the Parties, which should end no later than 31 December 1998.

9. *Also notes with appreciation* the contributions made thus far to the Special Voluntary Fund established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 47/188, and also invites Parties, as well as Governments of States not Parties, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations, to continue to make voluntary contributions to that fund during the transition period so that developing countries affected by desertification and drought, in particular least developed countries can participate fully and effectively in the second session of the Conference of the Parties.

10. *Requests* the head of the Secretariat to report to the second session of the Conference of the Parties on the status of contributions to and expenditures from the Trust Fund and the Special Voluntary Fund.

11. *Requests* the General Assembly to transfer any amounts remaining in the Trust Fund and the Special Voluntary Fund as of 31 December 1998 respectively to the Supplementary Fund to be established pursuant to paragraph 9 of the financial rules and to the Special Fund to be established in accordance with paragraph 10 of the financial rules.

Adoption of Convention budget for 1999

12. *Tentatively approves* the core budget of the Convention for calendar year 1999, amounting to US$____, for the following purposes:

		1999 Expenditures (thousands of US$)
I.	Programmes administered by Permanent Secretariat	
	Policy making organs	998.8
	Executive direction and management	945.4
	Substantive support to Conference of the Parties and subsidiary bodies	1,127.3
	Facilitation of implementation and coordination	2,005.2
	External relations	582.7
	Administration and systems support	1,578.3
	Administrative overhead charges[3]	940.9
II.	Operating expenses of the Global Mechanism[4]	
III.	Constitution of working capital reserve[5]	
TOTAL		

13. *Takes note* of estimates of contributions to offset the expenditures approved in paragraph 12 above, as follows:

		1999 Contributions (thousand of US$)
I.	Contributions from host Government[5]	
II.	Allotment of overhead for administration[6]	
TOTAL		

14. *Approves* the staffing table for the Permanent Secretariat under the 1999 core budget as follows:

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[3] Assumed to be 13 percent of expenditures for programmes administered by the Permanent Secretariat pending final agreement with the United Nations on estimates of the exact charges once the physical location of the Permanent Secretariat is decided.

[4] To be decided once modalities of the Global Mechanism have been decided.

[6] In accordance with paragraph 17 of this decision, will represents 8.3 percent of the expenditures in parts I and II, once total is known.

[5] Amount will depend on the decision of the Conference of the Parties regarding the physical location of the Permanent Secretariat.

[6] To be inserted at Conference of the Parties after preliminary negotiations with the United Nations and after a decision on the physical location of the Permanent Secretariat.

		1998
I.	Professional category and above	
	Head	1
	D-2	1
	D-1	2
	P-5	6
	P-4	8
	P-3	4
	P-2/1	1
Subtotal		23
II.	General service category	14
TOTAL		37

15. *Requests* the head of the Secretariat to present for approval by the sec session of the Conference of the Parties final estimates of core bud expenditures for 1999, as well as overhead charges and offsetting contributio taking account particularly of revisions following a decision on the physi location of the Permanent Secretariat.

Transfers between main appropriation lines

16. *Authorizes* the head of the Permanent Secretariat to make transfers betw each of the main appropriation lines set out in paragraph 12, Part I, above up an aggregate limit of 15 percent of the total estimated expenditures for a gi year for those appropriation lines, provided that in the process no appropriat line is reduced by more than 25 percent.

Working capital reserve

17. *Determines* that the working capital reserve maintained within the Gene Fund shall be set at a level of 8.3 percent (one month of operating requiremen of the core budget.

Scale of contributions

18. *Adopts* the attached prelimina y indicative scale of contributions to t General Fund of the Convention.

19. *Requests* the head of the Secretariat to present for approval by the sec session of the Conference of the Parties an updated scale reflecting the sta of ratifications and accessions to the Convention by that time.

20. *Recalls* that, in accordance with paragraph 14 of the financial rul contributions for 1999 are expected on or before 1 January 1999 and that ea Party should, as far in advance as possible of that date, inform the head of t Secretariat of the contribution it intends to make and the projected timing that contribution.

21. *Invites* all Parties to the Convention to pay promptly and in full t contributions required to finance expenditures approved under paragraph 12 abov as offset by estimated contributions noted in paragraph 13, taking account at appropriate time of any revisions made to these estimates by the second sessi of the Conference of the Parties.

Special purpose funding

22. *Notes* the estimates for special purpose funding for 1999 contained in document ICCD/COP(1)/3/Add.1.

23. *Invites* Parties, as well as Governments of States not Parties, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, to make contributions to the Supplementary Fund to be established pursuant to paragraph 9 of the financial rules to meet requirements estimated at US$___ in 1999, including overhead charges, in order to:

(a) facilitate assistance to affected developing counties in accordance with article 23, paragraph 2 (c), of the Convention;

(b) support participation of some representatives of non-governmental organizations from affected developing country Parties, particularly the least developed among them, in sessions of the Conference of the Parties; and

(c) advance other purposes consistent with the Convention.

24. *Further invites* Parties, as well as Governments of States not Parties, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, to make contributions to the Special Fund to be established in accordance with paragraph 10 of the financial rules to meet requirements estimated at US$___ in 1999, including overhead charges, in order to support the participation of representatives of developing, and in particular least developed, country Parties affected by desertification and/or drought, particularly those in Africa, in the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies.

25. *Requests* the head of the Secretariat to report to the second and third sessions of the Conference of the Parties on the status of the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund and to propose any adjustments that might be required in special purpose funding for 1999.

Preliminary Indicative Scale of Contributions for 1999 to the General Fund of the Convention to Combat Desertification

Actual and Potential Parties*	Preliminary Indicative Scale (%)**
Afghanistan	0.01
Algeria	0.17
Angola	0.01
Antigua and Barbuda	0.01
Argentina	0.52
Armenia	0.05
Australia	1.61
Austria	0.95
Bangladesh	0.01
Barbados	0.01
Belgium	1.10
Benin	0.01
Bhutan	0.01
Bolivia	0.01
Botswana	0.01
Brazil	1.77
Burkina Faso	0.01
Burundi	0.01
Cambodia	0.01
Cameroon	0.01
Canada	3.39
Cape Verde	0.01
Central African Republic	0.01
Chad	0.01
Chile	0.09
China	0.81
Colombia	0.11
Comoros	0.01
Congo	0.01
Costa Rica	0.01
Cote d'Ivoire	0.01
Croatia	0.10
Cuba	0.05
Denmark	0.79
Djibouti	0.01
Ecuador	0.02
Egypt	0.09
Equatorial Guinea	0.01
Eritrea	0.01
Ethiopia	0.01
European Union	2.50
Finland	0.68
France	7.00
Gabon	0.01
Gambia	0.01

Actual and Potential Parties*	Preliminary Indicative Scale (%)**
Georgia	0.12
Germany	9.88
Ghana	0.01
Greece	0.41
Grenada	0.01
Guinea	0.01
Guinea-Bissau	0.01
Haiti	0.01
Honduras	0.01
India	0.34
Indonesia	0.15
Iran, Islamic Republic Of	0.49
Ireland	0.23
Israel	0.29
Italy	5.73
Japan	17.07
Jordan	0.01
Kazakhstan	0.21
Kenya	0.01
Kuwait	0.21
Lao People's Democratic Republic	0.01
Lebanon	0.01
Lesotho	0.01
Liberia	0.01
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	0.22
Luxembourg	0.08
Madagascar	0.01
Malawi	0.01
Malaysia	0.15
Maldives	0.01
Mali	0.01
Malta	0.01
Mauritania	0.01
Mauritius	0.01
Mexico	0.86
Micronesia, Federated States of	0.01
Mongolia	0.01
Morocco	0.03
Mozambique	0.01
Myanmar	0.01
Namibia	0.01
Nepal	0.01
Netherlands	1.73
Nicaragua	0.01
Niger	0.01
Nigeria	0.12
Norway	0.61
Oman	0.04

Actual and Potential Parties*	Preliminary Indicative Scale (%)**
Pakistan	0.07
Panama	0.01
Paraguay	0.01
Peru	0.07
Philippines	0.07
Portugal	0.31
Republic of Korea	0.89
Rwanda	0.01
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0.01
Samoa	0.01
Sao Tome and Principe	0.01
Senegal	0.01
Seychelles	0.01
Sierra Leone	0.01
Solomon Islands	0.01
Somalia	0.01
South Africa	0.35
Spain	2.60
Sudan	0.01
Swaziland	0.01
Sweden	1.34
Switzerland	1.31
Syrian Arab Republic	0.05
Togo	0.01
Tunisia	0.03
Turkey	0.41
Turkmenistan	0.03
Uganda	0.01
United Kingdom	5.80
United Republic of Tanzania	0.01
United States of America	25.00
Uzbekistan	0.14
Vanuatu	0.01
Yemen	0.01
Zaire	0.01
Zambia	0.01
Zimbabwe	0.01
TOTAL	100.00

* Actual and potential Parties include States and regional economic integration organizations that have ratified, acceded to, or signed the Convention as of June 1, 1997, as well as several potentially large contributors that have indicated their intention to accede.

** In accordance with paragraph 12(a) of the draft financial rules, indicative rates of contribution are based on the UN scale of assessments, as currently contained in document A/49/673/Add.1, adjusted to ensure that no Party contributes less than 0.01 percent of the total, that no one contribution exceeds 25 per cent of the total and that no contribution from a least developed Party exceeds 0.01 percent of the total.